

SHALLOW RIDGE
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION
PE 31-44

Land Resource Area Rio Grande Plains

Location _____

Date 1/1/72

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs on gently sloping to undulating upland areas. The slopes are convex with gradients dominantly 2 to 5 percent but may range from less than 1 to more than 8 percent.

2. SOILS:

- a. The soils of this site are shallow, gravelly loams and loams ranging in depth from 2-20 inches but are usually less than 15 inches deep, underlain by indurated caliche. The surface soil normally contains some caliche fragments and chert gravel. The soils are well drained, runoff is medium and permeability is moderate. Due to soil depth, the available water holding capacity and fertility are low, limiting the production on this site. Species that are shallow rooted and can mature in a short time are adapted for this site.

- b. Some taxonomic units which characterize this site are:

Olmos gravelly loam
Kimbrough-like loam
Parrita loam
Zapata loam

- c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

- a. The climax plant community is on grassland with scattered low growing brush such as guajillo, mesquite, ceniza, kidneywood, ephedra and others. The site is dominated by mid grasses such as Arizona cottontop, sidecoats grama, lovegrass tridens and green sprangletop. Also occurring but in smaller amounts are trichloris, slim tridens, sand dropseed, and Texas bristlegrass.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

Grasses	85%	Woody	10%	Forbs	5%
Arizona cottontop	20	Guajillo	5	Bush sunflower	5
Sideoats grama	20	Guayacan	T	Orange zexmenia	
Little bluestem		Mescalbean	T	Menodora	
Pinhole bluestem	20	Blackbrush	2	Englemann daisy	
Green sprangletop		Kidneywood	1	Evening primrose	
Arizona cottontop	20	Elbowbush	1	Halfshrub sundrop	5
Two-flower trichloris		Ephedra	1	Annuals-2	
Slim tridens	5	Shrubby blue salvia	T		
Threeawn		Liveoak	T		
Sand dropseed	5	Ceniza	T		
Fall witchgrass					
Nash windmillgrass	15				
Hairy grama					
Curly mesquite	10				
Texas bristlegrass					
Tanglehead					

b. As retrogression occurs, slim tridens, sand dropseed, fall witchgrass, and Nash windmillgrass are likely increasers on the site. With further retrogression common invaders such as red threeawn, red grama, Halls panicum, Texas grama, and tumble windmillgrass will dominate along with heavy increase of guajillo, and ceniza. Woody invaders such as blackbrush, brazil, lote and acacia sp., may dominate with continued deterioration.

c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 1500 pounds per acre in poor years to 3200 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in good years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The site is used by dove and quail and deer.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a. Condition Class	Percent	
	Climax Vegetation	Ac/AU/Yearlong
Excellent	76-100	15-18
Good	51-75	17-22
Fair	26-50	20-25
Poor	0-25	25+

b. Introduced Species	Percent Ground Cover			
	100-76	75-51	50-26	25-0
Buffelgrass				
Introduced Bluestem	14-18	17-20	18-22	22+

1/1/72

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. For Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Little bluestem	Slim tridens	Kidneywood
Arizona cottontop	Sand dropseed	Elbowbush
Sideoats grama	Fall witchgrass	Bush sunflower
Two-flower trichloris	Hairy grama	
Green sprangletop	Texas windmillgrass	
Lovegrass tridens	Vine ephedra	
	Orange zexmenia	

b. For Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Bush sunflower	Guayacan	Acacia sp.
Orange zexmenia	Desert yaupon	Blackbrush
Rough menodora	Salvia sp.	Lote
Vine ephedra		Mescalbean
Oenothera sp.		Most grasses
Annual forbs		
Kidneywood		
Elbowbush		

c. For Dove & Quail

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Sunflower seed	Acacia seed	
Menodora seed	Kidneywood seed	
Tender vegetation (quail)		
Bristlegrass seed		

1/ Definitions of terms and an explanation of interpretations is given on a separate page which is attached or submitted with each group of range site descriptions.